

NCA
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THE NAZI MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

ANNCR :

CONSIDERABLE MEDIA ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE NOISY ACTIVITIES OF THE AMERICAN NAZI MOVEMENT, RAISING THE QUESTION OF HOW SIGNIFICANTLY THE MOVEMENT PLAYS UPON POLITICAL LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES. VOA NEWS ANALYST JOHN ALBERT HAS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT.

VOICE:

A NUMBER OF AMERICAN CITIES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN THE SCENE OF NOISY DEMONSTRATIONS OF NAZI GROUPS IN FULL UNIFORM, WITH THEIR BROWN SHIRTS, SWASTIKAS AND JACKBOOTS. AND, TO SOME EXTENT, THE IMPRESSION HAS BEEN CREATED THAT A NEW WAVE OF ANTI-SEMITISM AND NEGRO-HATING IS REPRESENTED IN THESE MARCHES AND DEMONSTRATIONS.

CERTAINLY THE MOST PUBLICIZED OF THESE ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN THE ATTEMPT OF A NAZI GROUP IN CHICAGO TO CARRYOUT A DEMONSTRATION IN THE SUBURB OF SKOKIE, WHERE AMONG THE LARGELY JEWISH POPULATION ARE SOME 7,000 SURVIVORS OF THE NAZI HOLOCAUST. THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES PASSED A ORDINANCE, FORBIDDING THE DEMONSTRATION. HOWEVER, THEY WERE OVERRULED BY THE STATE COURTS. THE CASE IS NOW PENDING BEFORE FEDERAL COURTS AND MAY BE GOING AS HIGH AS THE SUPREME COURT.

THE FACT REMAINS, HOWEVER, THAT THE NAZI MOVEMENT HAS NOT TAKEN ROOTS IN THE UNITED STATES. INDEED, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AMERICAN NAZIS AND ONHANGERS IS ESTIMATED TO TAKE IN AT MOST 1,200 PEOPLE.

THE FOUNDER OF THE AMERICAN NAZI PARTY, GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL, WAS CERTAINLY THE MOST GIFTED ORGANIZER AND PUBLICIST

FOR THE MOEVMENT. AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE GOVERNORSHIP OF VIRG-INIA IN 1965, HE RECEIVED 6,312 VOTES, RUNNING ON AN ANTI-NEGRO PLATFORM. THAT WAS ALSO THE HIGH POINT OF THE MOVEMENT. IN 1967, ROCKWELL WAS MURDERED BY A DISGRUNTLED FOLLOWER, AND SOON AFTERWARDS THE PARTY SPLIT INTO MANY SMALL GROUPS. THE PRESENT LEADER OF THE PARTY, WHICH ROCKWELL BEFORE HE DEATH RENAMED THE "NATIONAL SOCIALIST WHITE PEOPLE'S PARTY," IS NOW 32-YEAR OLD MATT KOEHL FROM MILWAUKEE. HIS ATTEMPTS TO BRING THE VARIOUS SPLINTER GROUPS TOGETHER AND TO MERGE WITH OTHER RADICAL GROUPS HAVE FAILED.

THE NAZI ACTION IN SKOKIE IS LED BY FRANK COLLIN, A FORMER ROCKWELL PARTY FOLLOWER, WHO WAS EXPELLED A FEW YEARS AGO BECAUSE HIS FATHER, A SURVIVOR OF A NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP, IS JEWISH. HIS GROUP TAKES IN NO MORE THAN A FEW DOZEN MEMBER. OTHER SMALL NAZI GROUPS EXIST IN CLEVELAND, MILWAUKEE, MINNEAPOLIS AND SAN FRANCISCO.

THE AMERICAN NAZIS WERE PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN 1973 IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI WAR, HOPING TO WHIP UP POPULAR ANTI-JEWISH SENTIMENTS. HOWEVER, THEY FAILED TO MAKE INROADS INTO THE STRONG SYMPATHY FOR THE ISRAELIS.

SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THE CURRENT RASH OF NAZI ACTIVITY IN THE UNITED STATES IS INSPIRED BY THE NEW INTEREST IN HITLER AND THE NAZI IN WEST GERMANY, THE WAVE OF BOOKS AND MOVIES ON THE NAZI PERIOD, AND, PERHAPS, BY RADICAL MOVEMENTS IN BRITAIN. BUT, FOR ALL THEIR EFFORTS, NAZI ANTI-SEMITISM AND ANTI-NEGRO SLOGANS HAVE YET TO TAKE ROOTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

JS/PY